New Cooking Gas Agency

1990. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Kerala for which advertisements for allocating LPG agencies were made during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications were pending for sanction in the State;

(c) the reasons for delay in the selection of new agencies; and

(d) the number of new agencies proposed to be started during current year and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forty Sight (48) locations are reported to have been advertised during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 for opening of LPG distributorships in Kerala. Out of these, selection has been made in five cases. The remaining 43 cases are pending for selection.

(c) The delay in selection is on account of non-functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards.

(d) Selections of distributors for the pending proposals are to be taken up as soon as the selection process is reactivated. It normally takes six months to one year to commission an LPG distributorship after the LOI is issued.

[Translation]

Air Service between India and China

1991. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached to have direct air service between India and China;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions in this regard; and

(c) the time by which this agreement is likely to be executed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) During the bilateral negotiations held in May 1997, an agreement has been reached with China which will enable the designated airlines of each country to operate two flights per week between India and China and beyond to a third country. Air India has no immediate plans to start direct operations between the two countries due to shortage of aircraft capacity. The plans of the Chinese are not known as yet.

[English]

MCLR Aircrafts

1992. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India propose to buy MCLR aircrafts;

(b) if so, when the decision in this regard was taken;

(c) the follow up action; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Air India Board has been advised to take a decision in this regard on a priority basis.

[Translation]

Repairing of Bridges in Uttar Pradesh

1993. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges on National Highways damaged in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of bridges out of them repaired and the time by which the remaining bridges are likely to be repaired;

(c) the total amount likely to be incurred on the repair of these bridges?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) No. of bridges on National Highways reported damaged during the last three years is as follows :

1994-95	-	3
1995-96	-	3
1996-97	-	1
Total	=	7

Repair works on two bridges are complete. The work on the remaining bridges is targetted for completion by March, 1998.

(c) Total amount likely to be spent is about Rs. 79.00 lakhs on the repair of these bridges.

[English]

Lapses

1994. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of serious lapses committed due to negligent action of teacher (s) of some of the Public Schools under Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee (DSGMC) while reporting Practical Examination marks in Physical Education in respect of class XIIth students to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for preparation of their mark sheets during the academic session 1996-97 causing severe mental agony to innocent students and parents alike;

(b) if so, whether the CBSE proposes to take any action against erring teachers;

(c) if so, the details of action taken/contemplated against such teacher (s); and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to information furnished by Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, no such complaint has been received by them.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Adult Education Programme

1995. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the literacy campaign being launched by the Union Government in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh under the Adult Education Programme has become completely unsuccessful;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether not even a single adult education centre has been set up out of the 19 proposed adult education centres in the city;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the amount allocated for the purpose; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Literacy Campaign in Kanpur city is presently in preparatory phase. The teaching learning process under the campaign is yet to start.

(c) to (e) No Adult Education Centres are proposed to be set up under the volunteer based campaign approach adopted for implementation of literacy programmes. Under this approach, for each group of 8 to 10 identified non-literates, a volunteer is assigned the responsibility of imparting literacy skills to the learners at any place mutually convenient to the learners and volunteers. The question of setting up of any Adult Education Centre, therefore, does not arise.

The National Literacy Mission Authority (NLMA) had approved Rs. 2,02,45,000/- for taking up literacy campaign in Kanpur city. The NLM share was Rs. 134.97 lakhs out of which Rs. 101.22 lakhs has so far been released to the Zila Saksharata Samiti for implementing the campaign.

[English]

Visit of Foreign Tourists to Maharashtra

1996. SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited the country during 1996-97;

(b) the percentage of tourists visited Maharashtra during 1996-97; and

(c) the schemes proposed to be implemented for development of more tourist spots in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourists who visited India during 1996-97 was 23,34,438. It is estimated that about 41% of the foreign tourists visiting the country visit Maharashtra.

(c) The identification and development of tourist spots in any State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism provide financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposals received from them as per guidelines. During the year 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 187.69 lakhs was sanctioned to the State Government for various projects including tourist complexes at Kunkeshwar and Pinguli and Guest House-cum-Water Sports at Lake Dhamapur and construction of Konkani huts at Haribareshwar and Ganapatiphule.